Aboriginal Relations

BUSINESS PLAN 2015–18

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This business plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the government's policy decisions as of October 15, 2015.

original signed by

Kathleen Ganley, Minister

THE MINISTRY

The ministry consists of the Department of Aboriginal Relations. Within the department's budget, funding is provided to the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal and the Northern Alberta Development Council, both of which are accountable to the minister. The Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that promotes self-governance, certainty and respect within the Metis Settlements through adjudications, mediation and education. The Northern Alberta Development Council identifies and addresses strategic issues that impact growth in Northern Alberta.

A more detailed description of Aboriginal Relations and its programs and initiatives can be found at www.aboriginal.alberta.ca.

LINK TO GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The desired outcomes and priority initiatives identified in this business plan are aligned with the strategic direction of the Government of Alberta.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Aboriginal Relations acts as a focal point for the province's relationships with First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities and organizations in Alberta. The ministry provides leadership and advice to other Government of Alberta ministries on Indigenous issues and policies and builds relationships with Indigenous governments and communities, other governments (including federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments), industry and other partners to strengthen social and economic opportunities for Indigenous peoples in Alberta.

The Government of Alberta is forging a new relationship with the Indigenous peoples in Alberta. The government's approach to developing a new relationship includes a commitment to implementing the objectives and principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) in a way that is consistent with the Canadian Constitution and Alberta law. The UN Declaration seeks to ensure that the rights of Indigenous peoples and their cultural identities are recognized, respected and promoted.

New relationships between the Government of Alberta and First Nations are not simply an outcome, but are essential to the government's ability to work collaboratively with First Nations leaders to achieve reconciliation through an appropriate balance in resource development and land management, and to work together to improve social and economic conditions among First Nations people.

In response to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee released in June 2015, the ministry is committed to acts of reconciliation to help reverse the effects of the legacy of the residential school system in Alberta. As part of its approach to reconciliation, the government will engage in thoughtful discussions within government and with Indigenous leadership on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. There is

an increasing recognition within the ministry of the need for a more strategic and systemic approach to informing government and others of the history, culture and modern aspirations of Indigenous peoples. The ministry is working with other ministries and Indigenous communities on building a stronger relationship with the Indigenous peoples, founded on mutual respect, empathy and the desire to create a brighter future for all Albertans. In addition, the government has joined the call for a National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and a commitment has been made to join other provinces and the federal government to address violence against Indigenous women and girls and ways to prevent human trafficking.

Various factors and trends form part of the political and legal climate within which Alberta conducts its relations with Indigenous peoples. Resource development, water management issues, concerns about the cumulative effects of development and the duty to consult, are all important issues to Indigenous peoples. The ministry strives to create strategies that advance Indigenous social and economic circumstances in collaboration with Indigenous communities and organizations, other ministries and stakeholders. The ministry is working to ensure that Indigenous peoples' constitutional rights are protected, the air, land and water that they, and all Alberta communities, rely on is protected and that they can build more prosperous, self-reliant and culturally strong communities.

In collaboration with First Nations and industry, the government is reviewing the policy on consultation with First Nations on land and natural resource management. This review is intended to assess the performance and standards of the consultation process and ensure it reflects developments in First Nations consultation and responds to the future needs of First Nations, industry and other stakeholders. In addition, the government has committed to repealing and replacing Bill 22, the *Aboriginal Consultation Levy Act*, through working collaboratively and respectfully with First Nations.

Significant progress has been made on flood recovery in southern Alberta since June 2013. With an endpoint in sight, the ministry, in cooperation with other departments, will continue to lead Alberta's efforts in First Nations' flood recovery and mitigation by assisting Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nations in Southern Alberta with the rebuild and repair of their homes and infrastructure, including skills development opportunities for First Nations people. It is anticipated that the rebuilding efforts will enhance the long-term economic recovery of these communities.

Moving forward, the ministry will continue to strengthen relationships with other ministries and Indigenous peoples, communities and organizations.

DESIRED OUTCOMES, PRIORITY INITIATIVES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Desired Outcome One: Indigenous communities and peoples can fully participate in Alberta's economy and society

The ministry's activities support effective relationships, policies and initiatives as well as strong and vibrant Indigenous communities where people can fully participate in the social and economic opportunities of Alberta. The ministry provides leadership on Indigenous policy and oversees agreements between the Government of Alberta and Indigenous governments and organizations. By building relationships with other ministries, Indigenous governments, communities and organizations, industry, other governments and partners, Aboriginal Relations strengthens economic and social opportunities for Indigenous peoples in Alberta. Aboriginal Relations provides advice, guidance and specialized knowledge to other ministries, governments and industry and collaborates with Indigenous communities and organizations to support skills development. The ministry also funds the Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal and the Metis Settlements Land Registry, and administers Alberta's Metis Settlements legislation and the First Nations Development Fund.

Priority Initiatives:

1.1 Lead the government in enhancing collaboration and ongoing dialogue with First Nations to achieve progress in mutually identified areas.

1.2 In a manner consistent with the Canadian Constitution and Alberta law, lead the government's work to implement the principles and objectives of the UN Declaration through a review of programs, policies and initiatives and through engagement with Indigenous peoples.

1.3 Ensure the government's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is reflected in the UN Declaration implementation plan.

1.4 Continue to call for the federal government to establish a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, develop locally based solutions in consultation with Indigenous partners to improve socio-economic outcomes for Indigenous women and support the Metis and First Nations Women's Councils on Economic Security.

1.5 Work with First Nations to advance matters of mutual interest with the federal government, including access to clean and safe drinking water and ensuring that jurisdictional conflicts do not prevent children from receiving services they need.

1.6 Strengthen strategic partnerships with Indigenous organizations, other governments, industry and others to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous peoples and support the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for First Nations Education in Alberta to eliminate the achievement gap between First Nations students and other students in Alberta.

1.7 Provide support to other ministries in improving the availability of First Nations language programs and the representation of Indigenous culture and history in Alberta's school curriculum in consultation with Indigenous leaders and Elders.

1.8 Collaborate with other ministries to strengthen the economic capacity of Indigenous communities, organizations, small businesses and entrepreneurs to increase Indigenous participation in the labour market.

1.9 Work with government ministries and community partners through the Alberta Aboriginal Program to hire Indigenous interns to enhance capacity, employment and cultural awareness within the government.

1.10 Continue to lead the government's work with Siksika and Stoney Nakoda Nations on the repair and rebuild of homes and infrastructure affected by the 2013 Southern Alberta floods.

1.11 Support improved outcomes for urban Indigenous peoples through collaboration with other ministries, Indigenous organizations, other governments and private and non-profit sector partners, including the implementation of the Urban Aboriginal Integrated Service Delivery Approach.

1.12 Continue to work with the Metis Settlements General Council to implement long-term governance and funding arrangements that focus on objectives of effective governance, enhanced accountability and sustainability.

1.13 Based on community priorities, administer the First Nations Development Fund to improve First Nations' economic, social and community development outcomes.

1.14 Work with the Metis Nation of Alberta Association and other ministries to increase economic opportunities and enhance community and individual well-being of Metis people.

1.15 Coordinate with other ministries to explore the development of a consolidated government report on Indigenous statistics to help enhance awareness and understanding of Indigenous issues.

Performance Measures	Last Actual 2013-14	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17	Target 2017-18
1.a Economic Initiatives:				
• Number of Indigenous strategic economic development initiatives, partnerships and capacity building projects	51	37	40	43
1.b Flood Recovery:				
• Number and percentage of affected homes with construction completed out of all affected homes				
◦ Siksika	0/136 0%	79/136 58%	136/136 100%	n/a
◦ Stoney Nakoda	0/548 0%	463/548 84%	548/548 100%	n/a

Performance Indicators	Actual 2010	Actual 2011	Actual 2012	Actual 2013
1.a Life expectancy at birth:				
• First Nations	72.14	70.79	72.16	72.53
• Non-First Nations	81.78	82.00	82.02	82.07
1.b Infant mortality rate:				
• First Nations	12.64	10.29	8.78	9.69
• Non-First Nations	5.37	4.65	3.76	4.10
1.c Employment:				
• Percentage of Alberta's off-reserve Aboriginal population unemployed compared to that of the non-Aboriginal population	7.0	6.1 percentage points higher	7.0	6.1
1.d Average employment income of Alberta's population 15 years and over who worked full-year, full time				
• Aboriginal Albertans	n/a	$55,668	n/a	n/a
◦ First Nations	n/a	$50,033	n/a	n/a
◦ Métis	n/a	$60,296	n/a	n/a
• Non-Aboriginal Albertans	n/a	$70,042 (2010)	n/a	n/a
1.e Average employment income of Alberta's Aboriginal population 15 years and over who worked full-year, full time				
• Male	n/a	$63,933	n/a	n/a
• Female	n/a	$45,236 (2010)	n/a	n/a
1.f Percentage of Alberta's employed off-reserve Aboriginal population that has a university degree compared to that of the non-Aboriginal population	15	13 percentage points lower	12	16
1.g Percentage of First Nations population that has a university certificate, diploma or degree compared to that of the non-Aboriginal population	n/a	17 percentage points lower	n/a	n/a

Desired Outcome Two: Alberta's coordinated approach to Indigenous consultation and land claims respects Treaty rights, increases First Nations' capacity, enhances resource development certainty and improves economic competitiveness

Alberta's management and development of provincial Crown lands and natural resources are subject to its legal and constitutional duty to consult First Nations when Crown decisions may adversely impact their continued exercise of constitutionally protected Treaty rights and, where appropriate, to accommodate their interests. The government of Alberta has centralized its functions in relation to Indigenous consultation within the ministry of Aboriginal Relations, which strengthens Alberta's role in the First Nations consultation process. The ministry leads the implementation of the Government of Alberta's Policy on Consultation with First Nations on Land and Natural Resource Management, 2013 and supports First Nations, industry and other ministries in the process.

The ministry develops policies, programs and initiatives that ensure Alberta fulfills its duty to consult on land and resource development decisions; provides and evaluates consultation capacity requirements of First Nations to participate in land management and resource development consultations, including providing funding through the First Nations Consultation Capacity Investment Program, and supports engagement and relationships with First Nations and Metis organizations. The ministry also leads the GeoData project which involves developing consultation areas with First Nations' input in order to facilitate more consistent notification for consultation. The ministry coordinates Alberta's participation in settling Treaty Land Entitlement claims. These initiatives support enhanced land management and resource development certainty, increased First Nations capacity and greater economic competitiveness.

2.1 Develop and implement a Metis Settlements consultation policy that is based on Alberta's duty to consult and aligns with Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy.

2.2 Work collaboratively and respectfully with First Nations to replace Bill 22 with an initiative to enhance the consultation capacity of First Nations.

2.3 Work with other ministries to establish a collaborative approach to enhancing the engagement and consultation with Indigenous communities and people in land management and resource development.

2.4 Review the policy on consultation with First Nations on land and natural resource management to ensure it reflects developments in First Nations consultation and responds to the future needs of First Nations, industry, and other stakeholders.

2.5 Continue to work with First Nations on a government-to-government basis to address matters of mutual interest as they relate to land and natural resource development.

2.6 Continue to work with industry and other ministries and agencies to support consultation activities.

2.7 Work with other governments to identify and address consultation challenges as well as opportunities for coordination.

2.8 Support consultation capacity and work with First Nations to enhance their participation in land management and resource development consultations.

2.9 Develop and maintain relationships with First Nations related to the development of regional plans, work at First Nations sub-tables, policy development and participation in multi-stakeholder advisory groups.

2.10 Ensure the Aboriginal Consultation Office promotes fairness, coordination and efficiency in the delivery of consultation services and regulatory decision-making in Alberta.

2.11 Work with other ministries, the federal government and First Nations towards resolution of land-related negotiations, in particular Treaty Land Entitlement claims for which Alberta has an obligation under the *Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.*

Performance Measures	Last Actual 2013-14	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17	Target 2017-18
2.a Percentage of First Nations with a GeoData map developed to support the consultation process	33%	60%	90%	95%
2.b Percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that pre-consultation assessments are issued within established timelines (four working days upon receipt of a complete application)	95% (Weeks 12 to 52, 2014-15)	95%	95%	95%
2.c Percentage of weeks in a fiscal year that consultation adequacy assessments are completed within established timelines (ten working days upon receipt of completed consultation summary documents)	97% (Weeks 12 to 52, 2014-15)	90%	90%	90%
2.d Percentage of all First Nations that participate in the First Nations Consultation Capacity Investment Program	96%	100%	100%	100%
2.e Percentage of tribal councils that are engaged through a formal relationship to support land and resource management	44% (4 of 9)	67% (6 of 9)	78% (7 of 9)	89% (8 of 9)

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Consolidated Financial Statements Basis

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable 2014-15 Actual	**2015-16 Estimate**	2016-17 Target	2017-18 Target
REVENUE				
Labour Market Development	2,800	**2,309**	1,811	1,322
Other Revenue	115	**69**	-	-
Total	2,915	**2,378**	1,811	1,322
EXPENSE				
Ministry Support Services	4,390	**5,129**	5,234	5,234
First Nations and Métis Relations	40,984	**42,600**	35,300	34,811
Aboriginal Women's Initiatives and Research	826	**1,034**	1,163	1,163
First Nations Development Fund	128,784	**128,000**	130,000	133,000
Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal	1,168	**1,204**	1,211	1,211
Consultation and Land Claims	15,308	**17,835**	18,670	18,670
Policy and Planning	1,348	**1,630**	1,638	1,638
2013 Alberta Flooding	6,150	**7,219**	6,057	2,967
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustment	(65)	**-**	-	-
Total	198,893	**204,651**	199,273	198,694
Net Operating Result	(195,978)	**(202,273)**	(197,462)	(197,372)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT				
Ministry Support Services	-	**25**	25	25
Consultation and Land Claims	117	**92**	-	-
Total	117	**117**	25	25